

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (canceled).

Claim 2 (currently amended) An in-mold foam molding method employing an in-mold foam molding apparatus comprising a core mold and a cavity mold devoid of air orifices at least in those molding sections for molding prominent areas of the outside face of a molded article; and fixed partitioning members of comb configuration having a plurality of teeth for preventing passage of bead starting materials, said members being fixed to the core mold or cavity mold with said teeth arranged along the mold parting direction[[;]], ~~wherein~~ said method ~~comprises~~ comprising the steps of:

filling adjacent partitioned mold chambers partitioned by means of said fixed partitioning members with bead starting materials of different properties; and

supplying steam to the mold cavity to heat and fuse the bead starting materials.

Claim 3 (currently amended) The in-mold foam molding method according to claim 2 or claim 8,

wherein said ~~passage~~ air orifices are completely ~~or largely~~ omitted from all molding sections of the core mold and cavity mold.

Claims 4-7 (canceled).

Claim 8 (currently amended) An in-mold foam molding method employing an in-mold foam molding apparatus comprising a core mold and a cavity mold devoid of air orifices at least in those molding sections for molding prominent areas of the outside face of a molded article; and fixed partitioning members of comb configuration having a plurality of teeth, said members being fixed to the core mold or cavity mold with said teeth arranged along the mold parting direction, and employing as the bead starting materials a first bead starting material incapable of passing through teeth and a second bead starting material capable of passing through the teeth, said method comprising the steps of:

with the core mold and cavity mold closed so that the mold cavity is partitioned into a plurality of partitioned mold chambers by fixed partitioning members, filling with the first bead starting material; and

filling with second bead starting material[[:]], each partitioned mold chamber being filled with bead starting materials such that at least adjacent partitioned mold chambers are filled with bead starting materials of different properties[[:]] and supplying steam to the mold cavity to heat and fuse the bead starting materials.

Claim 9 (previously presented) The in-mold foam molding method according to claim 2
or claim 8,

wherein said plurality of partitioned mold chambers are filled with bead starting materials
of different degrees of expansion.

Claim 10 (canceled).